

FACT SHEET

Caring for our Cemetery – Grave care & Maintenance

Caring for ‘Loved Ones’ Graves

The care and maintenance of burial sites is officially the responsibility of the “Holder of the Right of Interment” or the family, however the Trust strives to ensure all graves and cemetery grounds are respectfully and well maintained. The Trust endeavours to contact families where they determine work may be required.

Following a Burial

- Following the graveside service the grave will be backfilled and mounded.
- Available floral tributes will be placed on the grave.
- Over the next few weeks, the soil gradually settles and subsides. We will look to add additional fill. For Lawn Sections a layer of loam will be applied and then seeded.
- As part of regular maintenance some areas will require further loam.

A subsiding grave can be distressing to some people but be assured it is part of the normal process, and the grave will not be neglected. If you have a concern, please contact the Trust.

Establishing a memorial or headstone

It is advisable to wait between 3 to 6 months before establishing a formal memorial. This will minimise issues that may arise from subsidence. Please discuss this aspect with your selected stonemason.

Always contact the Trust before commencing any memorial work, as an application and fee will need to be approved and processed.

Soil and Drainage in the Cemetery grounds

- The soil at Bellbrae is a heavy clay known as marl. This also impacts grave settlement as well as drainage.
- It is not uncommon to see surface water as it works its way down the slopes and pathways. In winter this may even pool as the soil becomes waterlogged. Always be careful to avoid slips and falls.

Damage and Vandalism

Sadly, from time to time we do have reports of damage in the cemetery. Items of memorabilia or special meaning may go missing, so if they are placed by or on a grave it is at the family’s risk.

For more serious damage e.g. a headstone is vandalised, the Cemetery is insured.

Care Program

Most Fridays you will find a member of the Trust doing a walk through to collect rubbish, glass, dead flowers and check for any works required. Stop and say hello!!

Keep in Touch

Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date – that way if we notice anything of concern we can contact you. Our email is bellbraect@gmail.com.